# The Department of Homeland Security Funding Opportunity Announcement

**Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant** 

#### OVERVIEW INFORMATION

# **Issued By**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Preparedness Directorate, National Preparedness Assessment Division

## **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number**

97.131

# **CFDA Title**

**Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant** 

# **Funding Opportunity Announcement Title**

FY 2014 Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant

# **Authorizing Authority for Program**

Section 503(b)(2)(G) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended, 6 U.S.C. § 313(b)(2)(G);

6 U.S.C. §§ 313(b) (2) (B); § 314(a)(10); and § 314(a)(11)

#### **Appropriation Authority for Program**

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014, (Public Law 113-76)

#### **FOA Number**

DHS-14-NPD-131-000-01

## **Key Dates and Time**

Application Start Date: 07/08/2014
Application Submission Deadline Date: 07/31/2014
Anticipated Funding Selection Date: 08/4/2014
Anticipated Award Date: 09/30/2014

# **Other Key Dates**

Not Applicable

#### **Intergovernmental Review**

Pursuant to Executive Order 12372, an intergovernmental review may be required by applicable State law or regulation. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out about and comply with the State's process under Executive Order 12372. Name and

addresses of the SPOCs are maintained at the Office of Management and Budget's home page at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc">http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc</a> to ensure currency.			

# FOA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Program Type</b> Select the applicable program type: ⊠ New ☐ Continuation ☐ One-time					
Date of origin for Program: 1997					
Funding Opportunity Category Select the applicable opportunity category:					
☐ Discretionary ☐ Mandatory					
Competitive Non-competitive					
⊠ Sole Source					
<b>Application Process</b> DHS makes all funding opportunities available through the common electronic "storefront" grants.gov, accessible on the Internet at <a href="http://www.grants.gov">http://www.grants.gov</a> . If you experience difficulties accessing information or have any questions please call the grants.gov customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726.					
Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to http://www.grants.gov , select "Apply for Grants," and then select "Download Application Package." Enter the CFDA and/or the funding opportunity number located on the cover of this announcement. Select "Download Application Package," and then follow the prompts to download the application package. To download the instructions, go to "Download Application Package" and select "Instructions."					
Eligible Applicants This is a grant to the Council of State Governments (CSG)/Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for the development and delivery of consensus-based national standards that are American National Standards (ANSI)-certified for emergency preparedness and response organizations, as well as the application of these standards in a peer reviewed assessment process. The CSG/EMAP is the only eligible applicant for the Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant (EMBAG) program.					
<b>Type of Funding Instrument</b> Select the applicable funding instrument: ☐ Cooperative Agreement ☒ Grant					
Cost Share or Match There is no Cost Match or Cost Share requirement for this program.					

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Is there a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement? 
Yes No

# **Management and Administration**

Management and Administration costs ARE allowed under this program. Management and Administration costs are activities directly related to managing and administering the award. Grantees may use up to 15 % of the amount of the award for their M&A.

#### **Indirect Cost**

Indirect costs are allowable under this program, but only if the applicant has an approved indirect cost rate agreement with the cognizant Federal agency. A copy of the approved rate (a fully executed, agreement negotiated with the applicant's cognizant federal agency) is required at the time of application.

#### **FULL ANNOUNCEMENT**

# I. Funding Opportunity Description

# **Program Overview and Priorities**

The FY 2014 Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant (EMBAG) program will support the development of a set of American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-certified standards for emergency preparedness and response as well as a related assessment methodology for the evaluation of State, local and territorial emergency management organizations. This assessment methodology should incorporate a peer review process that results in accreditation of the emergency management organization, regardless of size.

The assessment and accreditation of emergency management organizations against consensus-based and ANSI-certified national standards enables standardized benchmarking of critical functions necessary for an emergency management organization to meet the 31 core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal (Goal). The Goal defines success as "a secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk." Achieving the Goal occurs through an integrated, layered, and inclusive approach to preparedness. Using the core capabilities, National Preparedness Goal is achieved by:

- Preventing, avoiding, or stopping a threatened or an actual act of terrorism;
- Protecting our citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards in a manner that allows our interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive;
- Mitigating the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters:
- Responding quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident; and
- Recovering through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident.

Accredited emergency management organizations are essential to achieving the Goal by validating the ability of jurisdictions to employ their core capabilities. Accreditation based on a national standard ensures critical emergency management functions such as planning, coordination, and communications include benchmarks for comparative evaluation. The assessment and accreditation process empowers a jurisdiction to understand its emergency management organization's capacity and shortfalls as well as develop a path for improvement. Jurisdictions can then use the results of the assessment and accreditation process to build, sustain, and improve preparedness activities. Tracking improvements to preparedness guides development of State Preparedness Reports that serve as an essential source of information in the

National Preparedness Report.

The assessment and accreditation process supported by EMAP will include review of the following areas within an emergency management organization:

- Emergency Management Program Administration, to include authorities, oversight, and strategic planning
- Emergency Management Finance
- Threat, Hazard, and Risk Assessment
- Consequence Analysis
- Hazard Mitigation
- Planning, to include mutual aid
- Incident Management
- Communications and Warning
- Operations and procedures
- Training and Exercises
- Public Affairs

# **Program Objectives**

The FY 2014 EMBAG is to be awarded as a two-year program.

# CSG/EMAP will accomplish the following:

- Complete state/territory/local/Tribal assessments;
- Maintain consensus-based standards;
- Maintain a web-based portal for jurisdiction self-assessments;
- Provide peer-review and feedback on problem areas identified in the self-assessments;
- Provide access to best practices and model plans;
- Provide webinars for training on standards;
- Provide training for assessors;
- Develop additional emergency preparedness and response standards and assessment and accreditation processes if directed; and
- Validate the EMAP process against exercises and real-world events.

#### CSG/EMAP will be responsible for the following outcomes:

- Maintaining and updating ANSI- certified emergency management organization standards that are consistent with consensus-based guidance aligned with the National Preparedness System;
- Presenting the EMAP process and the emergency management standards and accreditation guidelines at National Emergency Management Association and International Association of Emergency Managers annual conferences;
- Securing agreements to assess approximately 15 Emergency Management organizations against ANSI approved national standards;
- Developing and maintaining a web-based portal for jurisdictional self-assessments;

- Ensuring access to best practices, including model plans, risk assessments, and similar documents;
- Executing a peer-review process for emergency management organization accreditation, and feedback on problem areas identified in self-assessments;
- Providing webinars for training on the emergency management organization standards and the accreditation process;
- Implementing a strategy and process to validate assessments against real-world events and exercises; and
- If directed, developing additional emergency preparedness and response consensus-based standards as well as a peer-assessment and accreditation process.

# **Program Deliverables:**

Progress of the implementation of the FY2014 EMBAG award will be assessed as follows:

- At the end of the first year, the grantee has secured approximately 15 agreements with states and urban area jurisdictions to conduct assessments. Of those agreements, approximately 60% of the programs will have gone through the assessment and accreditation process.
- At the end of the second year, the grantee has secured approximately 15 agreements with states and urban area jurisdictions to conduct assessments. Of those agreements, approximately 60% of the programs will have gone through the assessment and accreditation process.
- At the end of the third year, the grantee has secured approximately 15 agreements with states and urban area jurisdictions to conduct assessments. Of those agreements, approximately 60% will have gone through the assessment and accreditation process.
- At the end of the fourth year, the grantee has secured approximately 15 agreements with states and urban area jurisdictions to conduct assessments. Of those agreements, approximately 60% will have gone through the assessment and accreditation process.
- At the end of the fifth year all those states and urban areas that were due for reaccreditation will have gone through the reaccreditation process.
- Updating the Emergency Management Standard:
  - o The EMAP Standard needs to be updated every three years.
  - Updating the standards must take into account recommendations provided by the emergency management community and align to the National Preparedness System.
- Within ten days of the award, the grantee and FEMA will meet to establish the structure, requirements, milestones, and level of support for establishing and maintaining the deliverables required to meet the program objectives.
- The grantee will have monthly conference calls with the program manager and provide a written monthly report of deliverables. During each conference call, the grantee will also provide a detailed assessment schedule for the next six months and a more general schedule for the following 12 to 18 months.
- At the conclusion of each assessment, the grantee will provide written reports to FEMA on the results of each jurisdiction assessed. The grantee will provide to FEMA and the assessed jurisdiction these reports no later than 3 months after the assessment process is complete.

- In addition, the grantee will provide an annual report to FEMA that lists the assessments accomplished, the trends identified in the assessments, and any changes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the assessment process.
- Within six months of award, the grantee will provide a strategy and process to validate the standards and assessment process against exercises and real-world events.
- Within eight months of award, the grantee will provide a strategy and process for developing additional emergency preparedness and response standards, assessments, and accreditation.

# **II.** Funding Information

# **Award Amounts, Important Dates, and Extensions**

Available Funding for the FOA: \$900,000.00

Projected number of Awards: 1

Projected Award Start Date(s): 09/30/2014 Projected Award End Date(s): 9/29/2016 Period of Performance: 24 months

#### **Period of Performance**

Is an extension to the period of performance permitted? Yes.

Extensions to the initial period of performance identified in the award will be considered only through formal, written requests to the National Preparedness Directorate, National Preparedness Assessment Division (NPD/NPAD) and must contain specific and compelling justifications as to why an extension is required. The grantee is advised to coordinate with NPD/NPAD as needed, when preparing an extension. All extension requests must address the following:

- 1. Grant program, fiscal year, and award number;
- 2. Reason for delay this must include details of the legal, policy, or operational challenges being experienced that prevent the final outlay of awarded funds by the applicable deadline;
- 3. Current status of the activity/activities;
- 4. Approved period of performance termination date and new project completion date:
- 5. Amount of funds drawn down to date;
- 6. Remaining available funds, both Federal and non-Federal;
- 7. Budget outlining how remaining Federal and non-Federal funds will be expended;
- 8. Plan for completion including milestones and timeframes for achieving each milestone and the position/person responsible for implementing the plan for completion; and
- 9. Certification that the activity/activities will be completed within the extended period of performance without any modification to the original Statement of Work approved by FEMA.

# **III.** Eligibility Information

# **Eligibility Criteria**

This is a grant to the Council of State Governments/Emergency Management Accreditation Program (CSG/EMAP) for the development and delivery of consensus-based national standards that are American National Standards (ANSI)-certified for emergency preparedness and response organizations, and applying these standards in a peer review assessment process. The EMAP program is a voluntary assessment accreditation process for state, territorial, tribal, and local, emergency management programs. This assessment and accreditation process has been in place since 1997, and is the most widely adopted model for assessment and accreditation based on the core capabilities described in the National Preparedness Goal.

## **IV.** Funding Restrictions

#### **Restrictions on Use of Award Funds**

Federal funds made available through this award may only be used for the purpose set forth in this award and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Award funds may not be used for matching funds for any other Federal grants/cooperative agreements, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, federal funds may not be used to sue the federal government or any other government entity.

#### i. Pre-award costs

Pre-award costs are not allowable.

#### ii. Direct Costs

Equipment

Equipment costs are not allowed under this program.

Travel

Domestic

Domestic travel costs are allowed under this program.

International

International travel is not an allowable cost under this program.

Construction and Renovation

Construction and renovation costs are NOT allowed under this program.

# V. Application Review Information and Selection Process

#### **Application Review Information**

Applications will be reviewed to ensure conformance with the Eligibility Criteria in Section III of this FOA and Application Submission in Section X.

#### **Application Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed and recommended for funding by the National Preparedness Assessment Division. Applicants will be evaluated and selected for funding based on the following:

- The applicant demonstrates the expertise necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant Program.
- Proposed activities and tasks employ sound concepts and techniques, present realistic timetables; are deliverable, sustainable and are compatible with the goals of the Emergency Management Baseline Assessment Grant Program.
- Proposed costs are complete, reasonable and cost-effective in relation to proposed activities and tasks.

# VI. Post-Selection and Pre-Award Guidelines

#### **Notice of Award**

Notification of award approval is made through the ND Grants system through an automatic e-mail to the awardee point of contact (the "authorized official") listed in the initial application. The date the approval of award is the "award date." The awardee should follow the directions in the notification to accept the award.

Grantees must accept their awards no later than 90 days from the award date. The grantee shall notify the awarding agency of its intent to accept and proceed with work under the award, or provide a written notice of intent to decline. Funds will remain on hold until the grantee accepts the award through official correspondence (e.g., written, electronic signature, signed letter or fax to the Programs Office) and all other conditions of award have been satisfied, or the award is otherwise rescinded. Failure to accept the grant award within the 90 day timeframe may result in a loss of funds.

#### **Administrative and Federal Financial Requirements**

Before accepting the award the authorized official should carefully read the award package for instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under Federal awards. Grantees must accept all conditions in this FOA as well as any Special Terms and Conditions in the Award notice to receive an award under this program.

#### i. Standard Terms and Conditions

A complete list of Federal Financial Requirements is available at: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants\_forms">http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants\_forms</a>. All successful applicants for all DHS grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with DHS Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions, which are enumerated in the DHS Chief Financial Officer Financial Management Policy Manual and are available online at: <a href="http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Proposed%20FY%2014%20Stand">http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Proposed%20FY%2014%20Standard%20TC%202013-12-04.pdf</a>.

# ii. Payment

FEMA utilizes the Payment and Reporting System (PARS) for financial reporting, invoicing and tracking payments. Additional information can be obtained at <a href="https://isource.fema.gov/sf269/execute/LogIn?sawContentMessage=true.">https://isource.fema.gov/sf269/execute/LogIn?sawContentMessage=true.</a>
DHS/FEMA uses the Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) method of payment to Recipients. To enroll in the DD/EFT, the Recipient must complete a Standard Form 1199A, Direct Deposit Form.

# **Program Performance Reporting Requirements**

Awardees are required to submit various financial and programmatic reports as a condition of their award acceptance. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if these reports are delinquent.

# i. Financial and Compliance Audit Report:

For audits of fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2014, recipients that expend \$750,000 or more from all federal funding sources during their fiscal year are required to submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report. The audit must be performed in accordance with the requirements of GAO's Government Auditing Standards, located at <a href="http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm">http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm</a>, and the requirements of Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, located at <a href="http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-">http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-</a>

idx?SID=55e12eead565605b4d529d82d276105c&node=2:1.1.2.1.1.6&rgn=div6.

For audits of fiscal years beginning prior to December 26, 2014, recipients that expend \$500,000 or more from all federal funding sources during their fiscal year are required to submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report. The audit must be performed in accordance with GAO's Government Auditing Standards, located at <a href="http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm">http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm</a>, and OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, located at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133">http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133</a> compliance supplement 2012. Audit reports are currently due to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse no later than nine months after the end of the recipient's fiscal year.

#### ii. Financial and Program Reporting Periods and Due Dates

The following reporting periods and due dates apply:

Reporting Period	Report Due Date
October 1 – December 31	January 30
January 1 – March 31	April 30
April 1 – June 30	July 30
July 1 – September 30	October 30

#### iii. Federal Financial Report (FFR).

Obligations and expenditures must be reported on a quarterly basis through the FFR (SF-425) and must be filed electronically using PARS. The SF-425 form is available at <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/grants">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/grants</a> forms/SF-425.pdf.

An FFR report must be submitted for quarterly throughout the period of performance, including partial calendar quarters, as well as for periods where no grant award activity occurs. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if these reports are delinquent, demonstrate lack of progress, or are insufficient in detail.

## iv. Program Performance Reporting Requirements

Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR). Awardees are responsible for providing updated performance reports using the SF-PPR on a quarterly basis. The SF-PPR is due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period Grantees must complete the cover page of the SF-PPR and submit it as an attachment to the ND Grants system. The SF-PPR can be accessed online at <a href="http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fap/SF-PPR\_Cover%20Sheet.pdf">http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fap/SF-PPR\_Cover%20Sheet.pdf</a>.

The progress report shall consist of: A summary of key work performed by deliverable. A review of progress and status of activities, insight into expenditures, staffing, progress, and risks.

#### v. Monitoring

Grant Award recipients will be monitored programmatically and financially on an annual and as needed basis by FEMA staff to ensure that the activities and project goals, objectives, performance requirements, timelines, milestone completion, budgets, and other related program criteria are being met.

Monitoring may be accomplished through either a desk-based review or on-site monitoring visits, or both. Monitoring will involve the review and analysis of the financial, programmatic, performance, compliance and administrative processes, policies, activities, and other attributes of each Federal assistance award and will identify areas where technical assistance, corrective actions and other support may be needed.

#### vi. Close Out

Within 90 days after the end of the 5 year funding period or whenever funds are no longer available whichever comes first. The grantee must submit a final FFR and final progress report detailing all accomplishments and a qualitative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance. As part of the final report, grantees must also submit the Tangible Personal Property Report (SF-428), available at

<u>http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/grants/approved\_forms/sf-428.pdf</u>, to provide an inventory of all tangible personal property acquired using EMBAG funds.

After these reports have been reviewed and approved by the NPAD, a close-out notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be deobligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for three years from the date of the final FFR.

The grantee is responsible for returning any funds that have been drawn down, but remain as unliquidated on grantee financial records.

# VII. <u>DHS – FEMA – NPAD - Contact Information</u> Contact and Resource Information

#### **For Program Questions:**

Sharon Kushnir NPD/NPAD

Tel: 202-786-9451 Cell: 202-368-4469

Email: Sharon.kushnir@fema.dhs.gov

## For Financial and Administrative Questions:

GPD's Grant Operations Division Business Office provides financial support and technical assistance, such as for password resets and registration requests, questions regarding Form 1199A, payment status, amendments, closeouts, and tracking de-obligation and award amounts. Additional guidance and information can be obtained by contacting the FEMA Call Center at (866) 927-5646 or via e-mail to ASK-GMD@dhs.gov.

# **VIII.** Other Critical Information

N/A

# IX. How to Apply

#### **Application Instructions**

Applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. To ensure that an application is submitted on time applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission. **Applicants should allow at least 15 business days (three weeks) to complete the five steps of applying listed below.** Failure of an applicant to comply with any of the required steps before the deadline for submitting their application will automatically disqualify their application from funding.

The steps involved in applying for an award under this program are:

- 1. Applying for, updating or verifying their DUNS Number
- 2. Applying for, updating or verifying their EIN Number
- 3. Updating or verifying their SAM Number
- 4. Submitting an initial application in grants.gov, and
- 5. Submitting the complete application in ND Grants

#### 1. Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number

The applicant must provide a DUNS number with their application. This number is a required field for all subsequent steps in the application submission. Applicants should verify they have a DUNS number, or take the steps necessary to obtain one.

Applicants can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711. FEMA <u>cannot</u> assist applicants with questions related to obtaining a current DUNS number.

#### 2. Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN)

FEMA requires both the EIN and a DUNS number prior to the issuance of a funding award and for grant award payment; both are also required to register with SAM (see below). The EIN base for an organization is the IRS Tax ID number, for individuals it is their social security number, both of which are nine-digit numbers. Organizations and individuals submitting their applications must correctly identify the EIN from the DUNS since both are 9-digit numbers. If these numbers are not correctly identified in the application, this may result in a delay in the issuance of the funding award and/or incorrect payment to a grantee organization.

Organization applicants applying for an EIN should plan on a minimum of 2 full weeks to obtain an EIN.

If you need assistance registering an EIN, please go to <a href="http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-(EIN)-Online">http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&-Self-Employed/Apply-for-an-Employer-Identification-Number-(EIN)-Online</a>. FEMA <a href="mailto:cannot">cannot</a> assist applicants with questions related to obtaining a current EIN.

# 3. Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Payments are contingent on the information provided in SAM and must be completed by the applicant at <a href="http://www.sam.gov">http://www.sam.gov</a>. It is imperative that the information provided by the applicant is correct and current. Please ensure that your organization's name, address, DUNS number and EIN are up to date in SAM and that the DUNS number used in SAM is the same one used to apply for all other FEMA awards.

SAM registration is a multi-step process including validating your EIN with the Internal review Service (IRS) to obtain a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code. The CAGE code is only valid for one year after issuance and must be current at the time of application. If you need assistance registering with SAM, please go to <a href="https://www.fsd.gov/">https://www.fsd.gov/</a> or call 866-606-8220. FEMA <a href="cannot assist">cannot assist applicants with questions related to obtaining a current CAGE code.

#### 4. Initial Application Submission in Grants.gov.

All applicants submit their initial application through Grants.gov. Applicants may need to first create a grants.gov user profile by visiting the Get Registered section of the grants.gov website. Successful completion of this step is necessary for FEMA to determine eligibility of the applicant. Applicants should complete this step at <a href="http://www.grants.gov">http://www.grants.gov</a>. The initial on-line application in grants.gov requires completing

- Standard Form 424 (SF424), Application for Federal Assistance, and
- grants.gov (GG) Form Certification Regarding Lobbying Form.

Both forms are available in the Forms tab under SF-424 Family. The initial application cannot be started or submitted in Grants.gov unless the applicants registration in SAM is confirmed.

Application forms and instructions are available at grants.gov. To access these materials, go to <a href="http://www.grants.gov">http://www.grants.gov</a>, select Apply for Grants, enter the CFDA number or the Opportunity ID Number noted in this FOA, select Download Application Package, and follow the prompts to download the application package. The information submitted in grants.gov will be retrieved by ND Grants, which will allow FEMA to determine if an applicant is eligible. Applicants are encouraged to submit their initial application in grants.gov at least ten days before the application deadline.

If you need assistance applying through grants.gov, please go to <a href="http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/grant-application-process.html">http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/grant-application-process.html</a>, contact <a href="mailto:support@grants.gov">support@grants.gov</a>, or call 800-518-4726. FEMA <a href="mailto:cannot">cannot</a> assist applicants with questions related to registering with grants.gov.

# 5. Final Application Submission in Non Disaster Grants System (ND Grants).

Eligible applicants will be notified by FEMA and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in ND Grants located <a href="https://portal.fema.gov">https://portal.fema.gov</a>. Applicants can register early with ND Grants and are encouraged to begin their ND Grants registration at the time of this announcement. Early registration will allow applicants to have adequate time to start and complete their application.

If you need assistance registering for the ND Grants system, please contact ndgrants@fema.gov or (800) 865-4076.

# X. Application and Submission Information

# **Application and Submission Information**

In ND Grants applicants will be prompted to submit all of the information contained in the following forms. Applicants should review these forms before applying to ensure they have all the information required.

- Standard Form 424A, Budget Information (Non-construction);
- Standard Form 424B, Standard Assurances (Non-construction);
- Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if the grantee has engaged or intends to engage in lobbying activities).

Applicants will also be prompted to assure compliance with all Standard and Special Terms and Conditions before being eligible to receive an award under this program.

In addition the applicant should outline the following program specific requirements:

• A 5 year schedule of assessments.

- A plan for the revision of the Emergency Management Standard that occurs every 3 years.
- A survey and analysis of results from states that have gone through the accreditation process and how they benefited from the process.
- The peer-review process for emergency management programs which will include feedback on results from self-assessments; and
- The web-based portal for jurisdictional self-assessments.
- A set of emergency management standards and guidelines informed by the National Preparedness Goal;
- Access to best practices including model plans, risk assessments, and similar documents; and
- The strategy and process every year to validate the peer-reviewed assessment process against real-world events and exercises.
- A roadmap to conduct an annual lessons learned review to identify ways to improve all facets of the deliverables and the development processes.

# Hard copies of the FOA

Hard copies of the FOA can be downloaded from the common electronic "storefront" grants.gov or via email from sharon.kushnir@fema.dhs.gov.

# **Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)**

The Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) and/or Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) number available for this Announcement is: (800) 462-7585.